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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original): A computer implemented method of performing a process, the method comprising:
 - receiving a modification to data associated with the process;
 - identifying workflow steps from a table of workflow steps based on the modification; and
 - invoking a workflow engine to enforce state transitions in the process based on the table of workflow steps.
 2. (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to cause a computing system to perform a method comprising:
 - creating a data table in a server database;
 - creating a workflow table in the server database, wherein the workflow table is associated with the data table, wherein each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step containing workflow rules and associated code defined by script functions;
 - receiving a data modification request in the server database;
 - invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and
 - evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step.
 3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step includes using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.
 4. (Original): A workflow system comprising:
 - a server database including a data table and an associated workflow table;
 - a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database;
 - a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and
 - a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.

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5. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow table is communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.
 6. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein each column in the data table comprises a workflow state.
 7. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step.
 8. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow table comprises a set of workflow rules and associated code to be executed by the workflow engine, wherein a workflow table is defined for each data table that needs to enforce integrity of data changes.
 9. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the extended store comprises a data set having the necessary information to enforce a workflow step.
 10. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow engine is implemented as a COM component and can run both in-process and out-of-process, wherein the workflow engine receives information on a workflow event from the extended store and maps the information against a cached copy of the workflow table and executes an appropriate workflow step.
 11. (Original): A workflow system comprising:
 - a server database including a data table and an associated workflow table, wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step;
 - a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database;
 - a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and
 - a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.

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12. (Original): The workflow system of claim 11, wherein each workflow step is triggered by a workflow event selected from the group comprising state events, transition events, and timeout events.

61 13. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a state event is associated with a single workflow state and is executed every time the event associated with the workflow state is triggered.

14. (Original): The workflow system of claim 13, wherein the execution of a state event depends on how a workflow state is entered or exited.

15. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a transition event is associated with a change from a current workflow state to a new workflow state, wherein the current and the new workflow states are defined by a transition workflow step, and wherein the transition event is executed upon a requested state transition where the current and the new workflow state match the transition workflow step.

16. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a timeout event is associated with a timeout job, wherein the timeout event can be either a state event or a transition event, and wherein the timeout event is triggered by the timeout job.

17. (Original): A workflow system comprising:

a server database including a data table and an associated workflow table, wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step, and wherein the system further includes workflow triggers defined on the data table;

a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database, wherein the workflow triggers analyze a data modification request submitted to the data table and invoke the extended store;

a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and

a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.

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18. (Original): The workflow system of claim 17, wherein the workflow engine is tier-agnostic.

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19. (Original): The workflow system of claim 17, wherein the system further includes a session object communicatively coupled to the server database, wherein the session object comprises a set of properties for a workflow event, a set of data on the current user, a database user list, and a data set of user permission.

20. (Original): The workflow system of claim 19, wherein the system further includes a number of workflow support functions which operate in conjunction with the session object and implement a number of workflow tasks including sending email and finding a user's manager.

21. (Currently amended): The workflow system of claim 17, wherein the system further includes a timeout agent implemented as a server job, wherein the timeout agent is scheduled to run with a definable frequency, and wherein the timeout agent scans the server database and executes a ~~an~~ timeout workflow event when the database indicates such an ontimeout workflow event is due.

22. (Original): The workflow system of claim 21, wherein the timeout agent performs an update in the data table and triggers an association workflow action upon timeout workflow events which define a state transition.

23. (Original): A computing method comprising:
creating a data table in a server database;
creating a workflow table in the server database, wherein the workflow table is associated with the data table, wherein each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step;
receiving a data modification request in the server database;
invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and
evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.

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24. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein invoking the workflow engine includes comparing the data modification request with a workflow definition in the workflow table and determining the appropriate workflow step to be executed.
- B/ 25. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes checking execution permissions on each workflow step.
26. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein creating a workflow table with each row in the workflow table representing a workflow step includes defining a condition and an action for each workflow step using script functions.
27. (Currently amended): The method of claim 26 25, wherein the script functions are both declarative and procedural in form.
28. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes committing the data modification request to the data table in the server database.
29. (Original): A computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a server database having a data table and an associated workflow table;
a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database;
a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and
a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.
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